Executives of Public Sector Undertakings made by the Government during the period commencing from the 19th of April, 1991 to the 30th of June, 1991.

(b) to (d) Some complaints have been received. The appointments were, however, made in accordance with the orders of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

(e) Government will take a decision after reviewing all such appointments.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Firing by Pakistan on Indian positions in Poonch Sector

547. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistani troops have recently resorted to unprovoked firing on Indian positions in ring contour sector of the border district of poonch as reported in the Indian Express dated 28-7-91;

(b) if so, the details of the casualties on both the sides;

(c) whether any protest has been lodged with the Pakistan Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) There have been incidents of exchange of fire between Indian and Pakistani forces across the Line of Control resulting in some casualties on both the sides. It would not be desirable to disclose further details.

(c) and (d) Directors General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan have been in telephonic contact with each other. The need to prevent escalation in the level of firing and tension along the border has been emphasised by both sides.

Requirement of advance Jet trainer by AIR Force/Navy

548. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that both the Air Force and the Navy have projected a requirement for an Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) to bridge the performance gap between the Kiran and modern fighter aircraft like Mirage or Sea Harrier;

(b) whether such an aircraft is within the design capability of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited; and

(c) what plans Government are considering to design and produce the AJT within the country in view of the shortage of foreign exchange resources?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Air Force and the Navy projected the need for an Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) for the advanced training of their pilots.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal for HAL to develop an Advanced Jet Trainer. The process of examination of all aspects, including the licence production of an AJT in India, is underway to arrive at an acceptable solution, keeping in view the resources availability and in the best interests of the Air Force and our production agencies. It would not be in public interest to disclose further details.

Rising trends in AIR crashes

549. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a rising trend in air crashes involving the four armed forces and that it is highest in the world;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the details thereof for the last two years;

(d) in what manner the accident rate of the Indian Air Force compare with that of other air forces; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to minimise the accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) The number of air crashes has gradually declined